

SEATO file

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WIT

13 August 1968

Dear Joe,

One of the items for consideration at the last meeting of USIB (8 August) was the proposal for release of TDI targetting data derived from TKH and SEAP-34 to [redacted]. I took the position for CIA that there was some security risk from the standpoint of release of this material to [redacted] particularly the latter, and particularly because the target list might find its way into Chinese Communist hands. [redacted] Rebel, representing you, took the position that DIA could not see much security risk inasmuch as the targets were included with those on the 1964 list and that the Chinese would be apt to attribute the evidence of photo coverage to U-2 and drone photography.

As a result of the discussion moving off into the area of policy considerations, the Board agreed to defer consideration until after NDPC completes its review of disclosure policies with respect to [redacted]

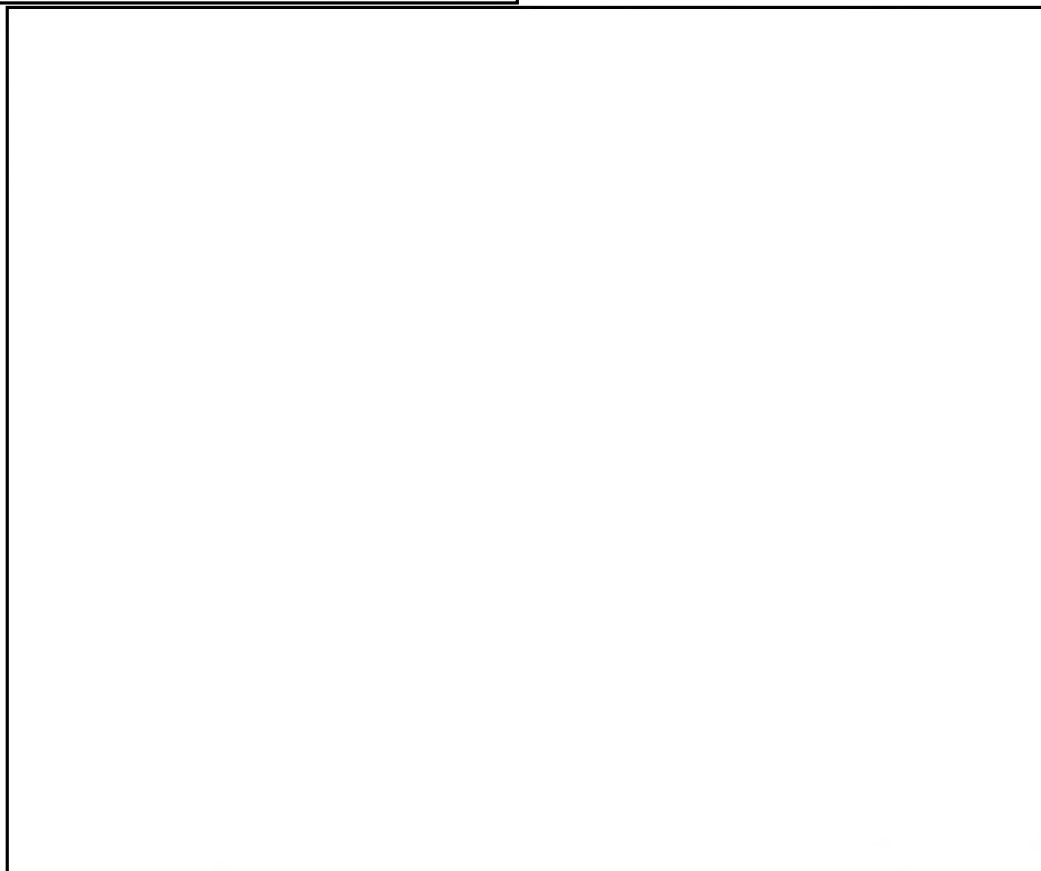
After the meeting I asked our people to examine the current list against the 1964 list to determine whether or not all the targets in the former had really been included in the latter and to examine the targets themselves against the tracks of aircraft and drone overflights since 1964 much as the Chinese might if the list were to fall into their hands. The results of that examination revealed a number of interesting points:

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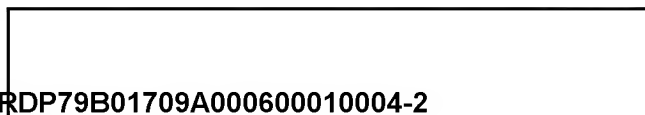
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Therefore, examination of the targets either on the basis of available photography or on its relationship to known tracks leads us to similar results. It appears that although we can identify from available photography only 62 targets that would have been covered by aircraft or drones after 1 January 1964, the Chinese Communists might conclude from examination of tracking data that aircraft or drone photography could have been acquired on 71 of the 75 targets during the same period. However, some of the "capacity-type" data might reveal to the Chinese Communists target changes which have taken place subsequent to the last tracked aircraft or drone reconnaissance flights. This is especially significant inasmuch as all recent KH photography is available for sanitization and therefore could reflect recent target changes, and yet the map shows that 13 of the targets lie in regions which received the last aircraft coverage in 1965. This will become of even greater significance in relation to future updatings of this material for [redacted] as satellites become the primary if not the sole source of information.

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In view of the above, and quite aside from policy considerations, I still entertain doubts from a security point of view as to the desirability of the release of this information [redacted] and the precedent such release will set in the case of future updatings of the [redacted] target list.

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With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

/S/ Rufus Taylor

Rufus Taylor
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Deputy Director

Lt. General Joseph F. Carroll
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
Department of Defense
Washington, D. C.

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Sent 11/8



I have discussed with [redacted] the possible effect of this on CIA's position on downgrading -

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